



# Peace and Freedom Party of California

## Legislative Committee

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June 9, 2019

Honorable Thomas J. Umberg  
State Capitol, Room 3076  
Sacramento, CA 94814-4900

**Subject: SB 505 (Umberg) Presidential primary elections**

**Oppose**

Dear Senator Umberg,

I am writing on behalf of Peace and Freedom Party of California. We want to thank you for all your efforts in making SB 505 into a bill in which Peace and Freedom Party will most likely be able to get some of our candidates on the upcoming Presidential primary ballot. However, we still do not see a reason for the bill. Further, we feel that the Secretary of State is overreaching his authority. A couple of the problems we still have with SB 505 are:

- the principle that to be a generally recognized candidate shouldn't require filing a form with the California Secretary of State, and the concerns that the details may make it difficult or impossible for a candidate to appear on more than one party's primary ballot, and
- that the criteria seem to make it difficult or impossible for a favorite daughter/favorite son candidate to appear on the ballot (to head an uncommitted delegation going to what is expected to be a brokered national convention).

We were told that the criteria laid out in SB 505 would let us know what a generally recognized candidate would be, but if for example, the Peace and Freedom Party and the Green Party both want the same candidate on both of their ballots, it is still arbitrary where one Secretary of State could rule one way and another Secretary of State could rule another way as has happened in the past. (In 2008, Cynthia McKinney was on both the Peace and Freedom Party and the Green Party Presidential primary ballots, and in 2016, Jill Stein was kept off the Peace and Freedom Party Presidential primary ballot despite our state chair and Jill Stein writing letters asking the Secretary of State to place her on both the Peace and Freedom Party and Green Party ballots). Peace and Freedom Party registrants who wanted to vote for Jill Stein in the primary had to register out of the Peace and Freedom Party in order to do so.

We appreciate your efforts in making a bad bill a little bit better, but it is still unacceptable as written. We think that a generally recognized candidate is one that has filed with the federal elections commission. Of course, another fear is that once government gets its foot in the door, it will be back in the future to force the door further open and erode democracy even more.

For these and other reasons, Peace and Freedom Party of California opposes SB 505. If you have any questions regarding this bill, you may contact me at (916) 422-5395 or [CTWeberVoters@att.net](mailto:CTWeberVoters@att.net).

**We urge members of the State Assembly to vote No on SB 505.**

Sincerely,

*CT Weber*

C. T. Weber  
Peace and Freedom Party of California  
Legislative Committee Chair

Cc: Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee